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SHAKESPEARE'S WILL,

COPIED FROM THE

ORIGINAL IN THE PREROGATIVE COURT,

Preserving the Interlineations,

AND

FACSIMILES

OF

THE THREE AUTOGRAPHS OF THE POET.

With a few Preliminary Observations,

BY

J. O. HALLIWELL, ESQ., F.R.S., F.S.A.

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1851.

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PREFACE.

Some years ago, an attempt was made to present Shakespeare's Will in a form which should clearly exhibit its original character, with the interlineations and corrections, to those who had not seen that most interesting document. The authorities of the Prerogative Court stedfastly refused to allow a facsimile of the Will to be made, and the only course which remained was to print it as nearly in its original form as was practicable with modern type. This was executed in the three following leaves (representing the three sheets of common legal brief paper, on which the original is written), by the late Mr. T. Rodd, who, however, having discovered some errors in the transcription, carefully suppressed them from the public.

On a minute examination of Mr. Rodd's copy, it was discovered that the chief errors of importance had been made in the preliminary sentence, and that, on the whole, it was a tolerably accurate transcript of the Will. Thus, at the commencement, *unice* should be *nunc ; Rx* should be the letter *R.* with a contraction, of course standing for *regis ; Sextie* should be *Scotie ;* and *January, Januarii.* In the Latin at the end, we have *Magistri Willielmi* for *Magistro Willielmo,* etc. On p. 1, l. 27, we should have, *are to paie her.* Lower down, *attaine* should be *att anie,* the word *time* having been accidentally omitted in the original. At p. 2, l. 7, the word *her* is cancelled in the manuscript.

It will be observed, that although these are, for the most part, very

careless oversights, they do not prevent the reader having a much clearer view of the character of the original, than in any edition of the Will that has yet been published; and it was thought that an acceptable service would be rendered to the Shakespearian student by its publication. The impression is limited to *one hundred* copies.

Avenue Lodge, Brixton Hill.
May 1851.

[SHAKSPEARE'S WILL.]

Vicesimo Quinto Die ~~January~~ Mtij Anno Regni Dñi nri Jacobi unice Rx Anglie &c. Decimo quarto & Sextie xlix° Annoq; Dñi 1616

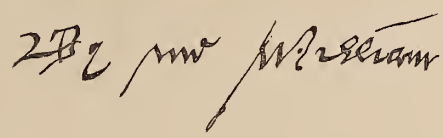
T. Wmj Shackspeare

In the name of god Amen I Willim Shackspeare of Stratford vpon Avon in the countie of warr gent in pfect health & memorie god be praysed doe make & Ordayne this my last will & testamt in mann & forme followeing That ys to saye ffirst I Comend my Soule into the hands of god my Creator hoping & assuredlie beleeving through th onelie meritts of Jesus Christe my Saviour to be made ptaker of lyfe everlastinge And my bodye to the Earth whereof yt ys made Itm I Gyve & bequeath vnto my ~~sonne &~~ Daughter Judyth One hundred & ffyftie pounds of lawful English money to be paied vnto her in mann & forme followeing That ys to saye One hundred pounds in discharge of her marriage porcon wthin one yeare after my deceas wth consideracon after the Rate of twoe Shillings in the pound for soe long tyme as the same shalbe vnpaied vnto her after my Deceas & the ffyftie pounds Residewe thereof vpon her Surrendring of or gyving of such sufficient securitie as the overseers of this my Will shall like of to Surrender or grante All her estate and Right that shall discend or come vnto her after my deceas or that shee nowe hath of in or to one Copiehold tente wth thappptennces lyeing and being in Stratford vpon Avon aforesaied in the saied countie of warr being pcell or holden of the manor of Rowington vnto my Daughter Susanna Hall & her heires for ever Itm I Gyve & bequeath vnto my saied Daughter Judith One hundred & ffyftie pounds more if she or Anie issue of her bodie be Lyvinge att thend of three yeares next ensueing the Daie of the Date of this my Will during wch tyme my executors to paie her consideracon from my deceas according to the Rate aforesaied And if she Dye wthin the saied terme wthout issue of her bodye then my Will ys & I Doe gyve & bequeath One Hundred Pounds thereof to my neece Elizabeth Hall & the ffiftie Pounds to be sett fourth by my executors during the lief of my Sister Johane Harte & the vse & pffitt thereof cominge shalbe payed to my saied Sister Ione & after her deceas the saied lli shall Remaine Amongst the children of my saied Sister Equallie to be Devided Amongst them But if my said Daughter Judith be lyving att thend of the saied three yeares or anye yssue of her bodye then my will ys & soe I Devise & bequeath the saied Hundred & ffiftie pounds to be sett out by my executors & overseers for the best benefitt of her & her issue & the Stock not to be paied vnto her soe long as She shalbe marryed & covert Baron ~~by my executors & overseers~~ but my will ys that she shall have the consideracon yearelie paied vnto her during her lief & after her deceas the saied stock and consideracon to bee paied to her children if she have Anie & if not to her executors or assigns she lyving the saied terme after my deceas Provided that if such husbond as she shall att thend of the saied three yeares be marryed vnto or attaine after doe sufficientle Assure vnto her & thissue of her bodie lands Awnswereable to the porcon by this my will gyven vnto her & to be adiudged soe by my executors & overseers then my will ys that the saied C lli shalbe paied to such husbond as shall make such assurance to his owne vse Itm I gyve & bequeath vnto my saied sister Ione xxli & all my wearing Apparrell to be paied & delivded wthin one yeare after my Deceas And I Doe will & devise vnto her the house wth thappptennces in Stratford wherein she dwelleth for her naturall lief vnder the yearlie Rent of xiid Itm I gyve & bequeath

vnto her three sonns Willim̃ Harte Hart & Michaell Harte ffyve pounds A peece to be payed w^th^in one yeare after my deceas ~~to be sett out for her w^th^in one yeare after my deceas by my executors wth thadvise & directcons of my overseers for her best ffitt vntill her marriage & then the same wth the increase thereof to be paied vnto~~ the saied Elizabeth Hall (except my brod silver & gilt bole) her Itm̃ I gyve & bequeath vnto ~~her~~ All my Plate ^A^ that I now have att the date of this my will Itm̃ I gyve & bequeath vnto the Poore of Stratford aforesaied tenn pounds to Mr. Thomas Combe my Sword to Thomas Russell Esquier ffyve pounds & to ffrauncis Collins of the Borough of warr in the countie of warr gent thirteene pounds Sixe shillings and Eight pence to be paied w^th^in one Yeare after my deceas Itm̃ I gyve & bequeath to Hamlett Sadler ~~Mr. Richard Tyler thelder~~ to Willim̃ Raynolds gent xxvj^s^ viij^d^ to buy him A Ringe xxvi^s^ viij^d^ to buy him A Ringe ^A^ to my godson Willm̃ Walker xx^s^ in gold to Anthonye Nashe gent xxvj^s^ viii^d^ & to Mr. John Nashe xxvj^s^ viij^d^ ~~in gold~~ ^A^ & to my ffellowes John Hemyngs Richard Burbage & Henry Cundell xxvj^s^ viij^d^ Apeece to buy them Ringes Itm̃ I Gyve will bequeath & devise vnto my Daughter Susanna Hall ^A^ for better enabling of her to pforme this my will & towards the pformans thereof All that Capitall messuage or tente wth thappꝑtennc̃s ^A^ in Stratford aforesaid called the newe place wherein I nowe Dwell & twoe Messuags or tentes wth thappꝑtennc̃s scitvat lyeing & being in Henley Streete w^th^in the borough of Stratford aforesaied And all my barnes stables Orchards gardens lands tents & hereditam^ts^ whatsoev̄ scituat lyeing & being or to be had Receyved pceyved or taken w^th^in the towns Hamletts Villags ffields & grounds of Stratford vpon Avon Oldstratford Bushopton & Welcombe or in anie of them in the saied countie of warr And alsoe All that Messuage or tente wth thappꝑtennc̃s wherein One John Robinson dwelleth scituat lyeing & being in the blackfriers in London nere the Wardrobe & all oth^r^ my lands tents & hereditam^ts^ whatsoev To have & to hold All & singler the saied pmiffs wth their App^r^tennc̃s vnto the saied Susanna Hall for & during the terme of her naturall lief & after her deceas to the first sonne of her bodie lawfullie yssueing & to the heires Males of the bodie of the saied first Sonne lawfullie yssueinge & for defalt of such issue to the second Sonne of her bodie lawfullie issueinge & to the heires Males of the bodie of the saied Second Sonne lawfullie yfsuinge and for defalt of such heires to the third Sonne of the bodie of the said Susanna Lawfullie yssueing & of the heires males of the bodie of the saied third sonne lawfullie yssueing And for defalt of such yssue the same soe to be & Remaine to the ffourth ~~Sonne~~ ffyfth Sixte & Seaventh sonnes of her bodie lawfullie issueing one after Anoth^r^ & to the heires

Willim̃. Shakspere

Males of the bodies of the saied ffourth fifth Sixte & Seaventh sonnes lawfullie yssueing in such manñ as yt ys before Lymitted to be & Remaine to the first second & third Sonnes of her bodie & to their heires males And for defalt of such issue the saied p̃miffs to be & Remaine to my sayed Neece Hall & the heires Males of her bodie Lawfullie yssueing & for defalt of such issue to my Daughter Judith & the heires males of her bodie lawfullie issueinge And for defalt of such issue to the Right heires of me the saied Willm̃ Shackspeare for ever Itm̃ I gyve vnto my wief my second best bed wth the furniture & bequeath to my saied Daughter Judith my broad silver gilt bole All the Rest of my goods Chattels Leases plate Jewels & household stuffe whatsoeṽ after my Detts and Legasies paied & my funerall expences discharged I gyve devise & bequeath to my Sonne in Lawe John Hall gent & my Daughter Susanna his wief whom I ordaine & make executo^rs^ of this my Last will & testam^t^ And I doe intreat & Appoint the saied Thomas Russell Esquier & ffrauncis Collins gent to be overseers hereof And doe Revoke All form̃ wills & publishe this to be my last will & testam^t^ In Witness whereof I have herevnto put my ~~Seale~~ hand the Daie & Yeare first above written.



Witness to the publishing
hereof, Fra: Collyns
Julyus Shawe
John Robinson
Hamnet Sadler
Robert Whattcott

Probatum corā Magrī Williīmi Byrde legum Dcorē Comiss^on^ &c. xxii^do^ die menss Junij Anno Dni 1616 Juram^to^ Johannis Hall vnius ex &c. Cui &c. De bene &c. Jurat.—Resv̄at p̃tate &c. Susanne Hall alt ex &c. cu^j^ venit &c. petitur.

(Inv^t^ ex^t^)

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